

REMARKS

At the onset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated October 9, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

By this response, claims 26-28 are hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 18-29 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 18-29 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,372,534 and claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,270. Claims 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 9-12 of the U.S. Patent Numbers 6,372,534.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 18-29 and reconsideration is requested. In response, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer to traverse the rejection upon indication that all claims are otherwise allowable.

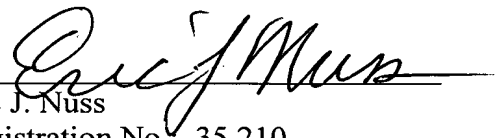
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 26-29 and reconsideration is requested. In response, the Applicants have amended claims 26-28. In view of this amendment, the Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §101.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: January 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Eric J. Nuss
Registration No.: 35,210
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant